



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 27, 2012

Rick Brazell
Forest Supervisor
Clearwater National Forest
Orofino, Idaho 83544

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and comments for the Clearwater National Forest (CNF) Travel Planning Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). EPA Project Number: 07-064-AFS.

Dear Mr. Brazell:

This review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Our September 30, 2009 comments on the DEIS focused on water quality. For example, we stated our concern that the DEIS did not provide sufficient information to conclude that any of the alternatives would meet water quality standards. To address this and other water quality concerns, we made several comments and recommendations. Decisions within your selected alternative, Alternative C Modified, and new information in the FEIS adequately address our concerns in the following ways.

- Alternative C Modified's improved "Conditions for Motorized Travel to Dispersed Campsites" addresses our concern about off-route exceptions that may be difficult to enforce.
- The entirely new "Aquatic Monitoring Plan" addresses our recommendation to "Prioritize OHV's contribution to the sedimentation of streams within the implementation and adaptive management planning framework." We strongly support full implementation of this plan's stream ford monitoring, dispersed site monitoring, and commitment to take action.
- New information and analysis in the FEIS Watershed Resources section - such as the: "Regulatory Framework" sub-section; "Affected Environment" introduction for Aquatics; updated indicator effects analyses; "Integrated Effects to Aquatic Resources" and "Consistency with Regulatory Framework" sub-sections; and, Table ROD-3 - addresses our informational concerns about how the CNF's travel planning meets water quality standards.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (206) 553-1601, or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Erik Peterson of my staff at, (206) 553-6382, or by electronic mail at peterson.erik@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit